INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors and information in respect of the Food Processing Industries, State-wise is not maintained centrally.

(b) District-wise number of all food processing industries in the States is not maintained centrally. However, as per the available information, there are 239 Fruit and Vegetable Processing Units, 21 Sweetened Acrated Water Units, 11 Meat Food Products Manufacturing Units, 33 Fish Processing Units, 2 Beer Units, 49 roller flour mills, 10555 rice mills in the State of West Bengal.

(c) No money is collected from the industries for their development by this Ministry.

Food Processing Industries in Kutch Region in Gujarat

2881. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Taluka-wise number of applications received by Government for setting up food processing industries in Kutch Region during the last three years, years-wise;

(b) what is the number of applications cleared so far by Government out of the said applications and also the number of licences issued for the setting up of such industries in the region;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to issue licences for setting up of such industries in this region during the year 1994; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGIA): (a) to (c) 2 proposals for setting fruit and vegetable processing units and 1 proposal for setting up of a unit for specialised products of Soya bean, in Kutch district of Gujarat, have been approved.

(d) and (e) Almost all food processing industries excepting for distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks and manufacture of those items reserved for small scale sector have been declared as high priority industries and consequently delicensed.

Foreign Investment in FPI

2882. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign companies are investing most in food processing industry;

(b) if so, the proportion of such investment to total foreign investment in the last years; and

(c) on what considerations Governments are allowing, and even encouraging processing of food items when it is far less nutritive and far more expensive than unprocessed food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Food processing Industries is attracting investment from foreign investors including those from NRI.

(b) The proportion is around 11%.

(c) Most produce of agriculture and allied activities require processing before consumption as food. Processing also helps in making the product, safe for human consumption, reduction of wastages increase in shelf-life, Improving taste, add nutrition, value addition, employment generation, export earnings,